

REGIONAL ILEITIS—2nd Revised Edition—Burrill B. Crohn, M.D., Consulting Gastroenterologist, Mount Sinai Hospital, New York, and Harry Yarnis, M.D., Associate in Medicine for Gastroenterology, Mount Sinai Hospital, New York, with special contributions by Richard H. Marshak, M.D., and David A. Turner, Ph.D. Distributed by Grune & Stratton, Inc., 381 Fourth Ave., New York 16, N. Y. (and 99 Great Russell Street, Lond. W.C. 1), 1958. 239 pages, \$7.25.

In this little monograph Drs. Crohn and Yarnis have brought up to date their very extensive experience of over six hundred cases of regional ileitis, supplemented with an extensive review of the literature of this disease, described by the senior author in 1932. While there is little that is new in the book, nonetheless, it is an excellent summary of our knowledge of this disease which the authors are inclined to look upon as a relatively benign one in most patients. A surgical approach is recommended by them more commonly than is the case with many other experts on this subject. There is considerable discussion of malabsorption in ileitis, of acute regional ileitis and of ileocolitis which adds considerably to the interest and value of the book. The x-rays included in the chapter by Dr. Marshak are excellent.

Internists and surgeons will find this volume particularly useful and interesting.

DWIGHT L. WILBUR

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MEDICO-MORAL PROBLEMS — Gerald Kelly, S.J., Catholic Hospital Association, St. Louis, 1958. 375 pages, \$3.00.

Father Kelly has collected material published in five previous booklets, condensing, amplifying and adding as indicated. He gives in straightforward style, supported by appropriate directives, the current stand of the Roman Catholic Church on various moral problems concerned with medicine. It is no surprise to find primary concern with the unborn child. The difficult problem of sacrificing the mother on behalf of the child when both cannot be saved is treated in detail, with encouraging reports that science is approaching the goal of saving both in increasing numbers. Should termination of pregnancy be an unavoidable incident in treating the mother for a dangerous disease such as carcinoma of the uterus or extrauterine pregnancy, this is held to be both good medicine and good morality.

In similar fashion, what is good medical practice in other fields is looked upon as morally right. Sterilization per se is considered indefensible, but it may be done within the moral pale if the medical indications are unequivocal. Avoidance of pregnancy by observing rhythm is allowable, but the physician is urged to "dissipate the exaggerated fears or notions and thus help the couple to start marriage with the proper idea of childbearing and its blessings." The Church rejects completely artificial insemination even if the husband of the woman is the donor. Even the examination of the man for sterility is hedged about with restrictions, since the use of a condom or of masturbation is considered immoral.

Problems of baptism under various conditions are treated in considerable detail, from its application to the presenting part at birth to the dying unconscious patient who has previously rejected spiritual counsel. It is assumed that the Lord's grace has descended upon the moribund individual. "We seldom, if ever, know whether it produces the desired result."

Experimentation upon humans requires consent of the subject, but even so, the subject does not have unlimited disposal of his life and health, since he is not the owner of his body, but only the administrator under God. Furthermore he must observe the law of hierarchy of values, and may not permit an operation that would deprive him of the use of his higher faculties "merely to cure some bodily

or emotional ailment." The same morality holds true in procedures designed for the good of others or the advancement of science. Even the physician is limited as to the risk he may undergo in experimenting upon himself. The use of individuals for experimentation at the behest of the state is utterly condemned.

Provided the medical indications are satisfactorily met, such procedures as electroshock, psychosurgery, hypnosis and narcoanalysis are morally permissible based, as are many other procedures, on the law of double effect, the desired results outweighing the unfavorable side-effects.

All but ultraliberal Catholics will accept Father Kelly's interpretations of the decisions, as will many who are non-Catholics but well-grounded in problems of general morality. There are areas, as the author points out, in which theologians and moralists disagree, and circumstances in individual cases that call for nicely graded decisions as to the morality of this or that procedure. Some of the conclusions will strike the non-Catholics as medically quite arbitrary and unsupportable, while others are clumsy expedients to get around prohibitions. For example: In testing for male sterility an intact condom is immoral but one with a hole in it is licit. This rests upon the tenet that sperm should always be deposited in the wife's vagina. The non-Catholic probably considers that a few million spermatozoa more or less will make no difference whatever in the long run in a couple's fecundity.

We may agree or disagree, but it is a good thing, nevertheless, to have the thinking of a moralist upon various medical problems. What Father Kelly has done is to assemble the thinking of Catholic moralists and physicians, supported by authorities of the Catholic Church, into a volume that is both reasonable and readable.

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PRACTICAL CARDIOLOGY—Albert Salisbury Hyman, M.D., F.A.C.P., F.A.C.C., Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine, New York Medical College. Landsberger Medical Books, Inc., distributed by the Blakiston Division of the McGraw-Hill Book Co., 330 West 42nd Street, New York 36, N. Y., 1958. 307 pages, \$7.00.

This volume reflects the author's interest in mensuration and systematization. While much is admirable, it does not fill the need of the general practitioner for a practical summary of cardiology.

HERBERT C. MOFFITT, JR.

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EPILEPSY—What It Is, What to Do About It—Tracy J. Putnam, M.D., formerly Professor of Neurology, Harvard Medical School; Former President, American League Against Epilepsy; Chief, Department of Neurosurgery, Cedars of Lebanon Hospital, Los Angeles; Consultant in Neurosurgery, Camarillo State Hospital, California. J. B. Lippincott Company, East Washington Square, Philadelphia, 1958. 190 pages, \$1.25.

This small paper bound book is directed to "patients, their families and friends: nurses and schoolteachers." It can be read with profit also by the general practitioner, and even the specialist in the field will be rewarded by portions of the book. Enough theory is presented to give an appreciation of what is known of the nature of the disease. However, the practical aspect of the adjustment of the patient to the condition is stressed, and the advice given is sound and useful. One may question perhaps the detail in regard to drugs available, and there is no doubt that reading the book will cause many patients to ask questions of their physician. If the physician can answer these, fine; if not, he had better increase his knowledge about epilepsy until he can.

HENRY NEWMAN, M.D.